Selway/Elk City/Red River Complex

Fire Information Office, 208-842-2231 <u>selwaycomplex2015@gmail.com</u>

Hours of Operation: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Facebook: Selway Complex 2015
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Monday, September 14, 2015 - 8:00 AM

Background

The Baldy and Wash fires were caused by lightning strikes on August 10th and 13th. The Crown, Lone Park, Little Green, and Noble fires were caused by lightning strikes on August 17. The Baldy, Crown, Lone Park, Little Green, and Noble fires are in the Red River Ranger District, and the Wash fire is in the Moose Creek Ranger District of the Nez Perce - Clearwater National Forest. All of these fires are being reported under the Selway Complex. With dry conditions, gusty winds, steep terrain, and a shortage of firefighting resources due to multiple fire starts, the fires quickly grew. Fires are expected to be active until a significant, season-ending weather event occurs, which may not occur until mid/late October.

Fire:	Acreage:	
Wash	36,555	
Baldy	6,879	
Noble*	40,393	Containment:
Selway Complex 2015	Total acres= 83,827	13%

^{*}Noble Fire acreage includes acreage from Crown, Lone Park, and Little Green fires.

Yesterday's Events

Wash Fire: Engine crews continued to secure fire-affected road systems. Rehab efforts along the Anderson Butte National Recreation Trail continued.

Baldy Fire: Crews continued to mitigate hot areas close to containment lines. Falling teams worked to secure the 466 road to Pilot Knob Lookout.

Noble Fire: Mop up and cold trailing continued around the Mallard Creek and Cook Ranches. Firefighters continued construction of direct handline along the west flank, extending the lines both to the north and south using hose lays to hold and mop up. Road clearing continued preparing the 100-foot fuel break on the 9550 road.

Planned Events

Wash fire: Continue rehab on Anderson Butte National Recreation Trail and affected road systems.

Baldy fire: Continue mop up and containment of spot fires north of the 1855 Road. Continue cold trailing, hot spotting, and securing from 284 south to Pilot Knob Lookout. Scout areas for rehab efforts along roads and firelines.

^{*}Reduction in acreage is due to more accurate mapping on the noble fire.

Noble fire: Monitor all active fire on the south side of the Magruder Corridor for possible impacts to the road with a focus on the Mountain Meadows area, the area south of Poet Creek, and near Green Mountain Lookout. Continue mop up around the Mallard Creek and Cook Ranches. Continue clearing a 100-foot wide fuel break on the 9553 Road. Construct direct line where feasible along the fire edge, and construct hose lays along western and northern edge. Use equipment to skid logs from fuel breaks.

This morning the Southern Area Red team led by Incident Commander Mike Dueitt will transfer management of the complex to a Type 3 Organization led by Incident Commander Chris Lundgren. This will be the last update from the Southern Area Red Team. For questions about the Complex starting Monday please call 208-842-2231.

Restrictions and Closures

An area closure for lands north and south of the Selway corridor has been lifted, and replaced with more site-specific road and trail closures. This allows access to multiple game units including 16, 16A and 17. For more information please call 208-926-4258.

Fire restrictions remain lifted for all lands managed by the Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forests. Recreationists are able to build warming fires outside of designated recreation areas. All backcountry airstrips are open.

Although the Magruder Corridor Road is open for use without a pilot car, it remains an area of concern. Fire activity could cause a road closure for public safety. This road could also be closed intermittently due to work crews removing debris from the roadside or performing fire suppression activities.

Evacuations

The Evacuation Alert remains lifted for all fire areas except Mallard Creek and Cook Ranches, which are currently Level 2. (A Level 2 Evacuation means be ready. This level indicates there is significant danger to your area, and residents should either voluntarily relocate to a shelter or with family/friends outside of the affected area, or if choosing to remain, to be ready at a moment's notice.)

Fire Weather

Cooler air is slowly spreading into Northern Idaho as an area of low pressure settles into the region. Look for temperatures to be almost 10 degrees below what was observed Sunday. Clouds will thicken and lower through the day today ahead of off and on showers tonight into Tuesday morning. The potential exists for accumulating snow around an inch or less at elevations over 6,000 feet Tuesday morning. Below normal temperatures and overall moist conditions will continue through at least Thursday. The best chance for a wetting rain looks to be Wednesday night into Thursday. Temperature should moderate to normal or even above normal for the end of the week into the upcoming weekend.